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CHARLES REX.

HIS

MAJESTIES ANSWER,

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To the Parliaments *Propositions* for *Peace*,

Presented to the Lords and Commons assembled at Westminster, and the Scottish Commissioners, on Saturday last, by the Duke of Richmond.

Wherein is declared the particular Objections against the said Propositions, and His Majesties Desires therein. With the Parliaments Answer to the same.

Likewise the Copy of three Commissions, sent into Kent, by His Majesty, for the betraying of Dover, and Chatham to the enemy: Together with the taking of 30. Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen by Northampton Forces, as they were going from *Newark* to *Oxford*.

Also a treacherous Designe for the betraying of *Reading*, *Windsor* and Henly to the Cavaleers. With many more Remarkable Passages, brought by the Post, the last night, being Friday.

Printed at Yorke by *Tho*: *Broad*, dwelling in Stonegate over against the Signe of the Starre, 1644

CHAPTER XIII.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS.

His Majesties Answer to the Propositions presented to him from the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament of England at Westminster, and the Commissioners of *Scotland* now at *London*, to be delivered unto the Lords and Commons assembled in the Parliament of England at Westminster, and the Commissioners of the Parliament of *Scotland* now at *London*.

CHARLES REX,

HIS Majesty hath seriously considered your Propositions and findes it very difficult, in respect they import such great alterations in Government, both in Church and State, to returne a particular and positive Answer before a full debate, wherein those Propositions and all the necessary Explanations and Reasons for assenting, dissenting,

or qualifying, and all inconveniencies, and miſchiefe which may enſue, and cannot otherwiſe be ſo well foreſeen, may bee diſcuſſed and waighed.

His Majeſty therefore propoſeth and deſireth as the beſt expedient for Peace, that you will appoint ſuch number of perſons as you ſhall thinke fit, to Treat with the like number of perſons to be appointed by His Majeſty upon the ſaid Propoſitions and ſuch other things as ſhall be propoſed by His Majeſty, for the preſervation and defence of the Proteſtant Religion (with due regard to the caſe of tender Conſciences, as His Majeſty hath offered) the Crown, the Liberty and Propriety of the Subject, and the Priviledg of Parliament, And upon the whole matter to conclude an happy and bleſſed Peace.

Given at Our Court at Oxford, *the* 13. *day of* December, 1644.

The Parliaments Anſwer to the Kings laſt

Meſſage, Dated at Oxford, *Decemb.* 13.

UPon the 19. of Decem. being Thurſday, the Houſe of Commons continued ſitting till ten of the clocke at night, the great affairs of the Kingdome being of ſuch mighty importance, and particularly, ſeven hours of the day was imployed in the debate of the Anſwer to bee given to the two Lords that came from Oxford, and at laſt the Lords and Commons and Scottiſh Commiſſioners agreed on an Anſwer to be returned by them to his Majeſty, and was to be delivered them by the Committee for their firſt reception to this effect.

1.

May it pleaſe your moſt Excellent Majeſty,

YOur Majeſties moſt humble and loyall Subjects of both kingdoms, having taken into ſerious conſideration your Majeſties Meſ-

Meſſage for a Treaty of Peace, dated at Oxford the 13. of this inſtant Decemb. ſent by the Duke of Lenox, and the Earle of Southampton to the Parliament of England, and Commiſſioners of the Parliament of Scotland reſiding in London, unto which being deſirous to uſe all meanes for the eſtabliſhing a firme peace in all your Majeſties Dominions, they have agreed; but in regard there are many things which will take up ſome time for preparations thereunto, both for the time and manner, how to treat they have ſent backe your Majeſties Meſſengers, and ſhall return you a ſpeedy Anſwer by Meſſengers of their own.

Weſtminſter, Decem. 20.

It is a ſad thing to obſerve how that in all our Treaties with the enemy, contrary to their fair pretences and Overtures of Peace, they are then moſt zealous in plots and treacheries, as will appeare as followeth.

The Houſe of Commons have received a Letter of a treacherous plot for the ſurprize of Lyn in Norfolk, by one M. *Roger le Strange*, who had a Commiſſion under his Majeſties own hand, for the doing thereof; and thereupon endeavoured to draw to his aſſiſtance Captain *Leamin* of that Garriſon, who ſeemingly held a complyance with him, but revealed the whole matter to Colonell *Walton* the Governour, and a little before the ſaid treachery was to be put in execution, Mar *Le Strange* was apprehended, and ſince brought to London to receive his demerit, I ſhall not neede to acquaint you with the manner of this deſign, you will receive better ſatisfaction by his Majeſties Commiſſion to Mr *Strange* for the doing thereof, found about him when hee was apprehended, and followes in theſe words.

CHARLES REX,

WE *having received from Our Truſty and Welbelovod* Roger le Strange, *Declaration: of the good affection of divers of Our well-*

affected Subjects of our Counties of Norfolke, and Suffolke, and particularly of Our town of Lynne, as also some Overtures concerning the reduceing of Our said Town of Lynne, Wee have thought fit to return Our Royall thankes unto Our said well-affected Subjects, and particularly to give Our said Trustie and welbeloved Roger le Strange *these encouragements to proceed in Our service, principally to the work of reducing the said town of Lyn.*

1. *That in case that Attempt shall be gone through withall, he the said* Roger le Strange *shall have the Government of the place.*

2. *That what engagement shall be made unto the Inhabitants of the said place, or any other person capable of contributing ayde to all to that service, by way of reward either in imployment in his Majesties Navie or Forts, or in moneys, not exceeding the summe of five thousand pounds, the service being performed, shall be made good unto him.*

3. *That they shall in this worke receive what assistance may be given them from any of Our neerest Garrisons.*

And lastly, that when ever Our said Town shall be reduced unto Our obedience, we shall further send thither such a considerable power, as shall be sufficient to relieve and preserve them. We being at present even without this fully resolved to send a strong power to incourage Our faithfull Subiects in those parts, and to regain Our Rights and Interests there.

Given at Our Court at Oxford, this 28. of Nov. 1644.
By His Majesties Command,
GEORGE DIGBY.

But had this treacherous designe taken effect, Prince Maurice and the rest of the forces under him were ready to have entred into the Associations, where being prevented, he is now marching toward Oxford again.

The next treacherous attempt was to betray Reading, Henley, and Windsor, who was discovered by the means of a spy taken in Reading upon suspition, who being examined, confessed there was a plot in hand to surprize that Garrison, and that 2. or 3000 horse from Oxford, Bazing, and Wallingford, should have come neer Reading at a certain hour early in the morning, on Wednesday Decem. 18. At which time the Complotters in the Town had

a party

a party ready to fall on the Sentinels and cut their throats, and so give the enemy entrance: the chief complotters were Alderman *Harrison*, and some other Aldermen of that Town, a Commander of ours, and divers others, whereof most of them are taken, and will undoubtedly receive the just reward of treachery, but some of them are escaped.

The next place which they attempted to betray (now while they pretend so much to Peace) was Dover Castle, and the Fort there, all things were ready to put the design in execution, except a party to come to their relief: but by better providence the plot was discovered, and divers within the Castle that complyed with the design apprehended.

From Kent.

From Kent we are also advertised of the Plot intended, that it was not one Commission but three Commissions of Array, His Majesty sent into that County; the one was to Array men together, upon the betraying of the Castle and Fort at Dover: the other to Array men together upon the betraying of Chatham, and some ships there: and the other was the further part of Kent, the Commissions bear date at Oxford, Nov. 29. last past, at the same instant when the Parliament Commissioners were there.

I cannot omit to tell you of a good prize our Northampton forces have lighted on, about thirty persons, some Lords, some Knights, some Gentlemen of quality, resolved (being well mounted) to enforce their passage from Newark to Banbury.

The Northampton forces fell upon them in their march, killed four, and wounded four, and took fifteen prisoners, one of them called himself my Lord *Saint-Paul*, Sir *John*, or *Thomas Strickland*, Sir *Fenwicke* a Knight, are two of them, the rest are Gentlemen of noat.

By letters we are informed, That Taunton Castle is relieved by Colonell Holborn, and Major Van Ruffe, the enemy that had besieged the same, upon the approach of our forces marched away in such

such haste, that they left a good quantity of their provisions in the Towu and some Armes, and being purſued upon the Rear, there were diuers priſoners taken, beſides horſe and armes.

Taunton Caſtle being thus relieved without any oppoſition, our forces have proceeded further, and cleared diuers petty Garriſons and Houſes, which the enemy held in thoſe parts, and did much infeſt the Country.

There is a Commiſſioner come from the Queene of Sweadland; he hath delivered his Letters to a Commit tee of Lords and Commons appointed to that purpoſe: It is not yet communicated to the Parliament; ſo I cannot tell you the contents: but by the outſide, the matter within ſhould be pleaſing.

Her Majeſty of Sweadland addreſſes her ſelfe to the two Houſes of Parliament, the repreſentative Body of the Kingdom of England. I do not hear that any other addreſſe is made by Her to any body elſe: It ſeemes Her Majeſty thinkes (as well ſhe might) that if the Proteſtant Religion be preſerved in England, it muſt bee by the Parliament, and not by the Court, who imploy Papiſts, Iriſh Rebels, to ſettle the Proteſtant Religion.

His Majeſties p u derers, which were lately in Buckingham, Northamptonſhire, and the parts thereabouts; are withdrawne Weſtward again.

The Lords have Voted Canterbury guilty, ſo that (no doubt) the Ordinance will paſſe againſt him.

FINIS.